

HOUSE No. 3704

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Kay Khan

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the passage of the accompanying bill:

An Act relative to the regulation of animal shelters.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
Kay Khan	11th Middlesex
Brian P. Wallace	4th Suffolk
William Smitty Pignatelli	4th Berkshire
Jennifer Benson	37th Middlesex
Denis E. Guyer	2nd Berkshire
Theodore C. Speliotis	13th Essex
Anthony W. Petruccelli	First Suffolk and Middlesex
F. Jay Barrows	1st Bristol
Cory Atkins	14th Middlesex

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand and Nine

AN ACT RELATIVE TO THE REGULATION OF ANIMAL SHELTERS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 To Amend Chapter 129 of the General Laws by inserting the following:

2 Section 39E: Animal Shelters and Rescue (rehoming) Organizations

3 SECTION 1. Definitions:

4 “Shelter” – Any 501 (c)3 organization or other IRS not for profit status organization that finds
5 homes for unowned animals.

6 “Rescue Organization” – A 501 (c)3 organization or other IRS not for profit status organization
7 other than a shelter as defined in this act that arranges for transfer of unowned dogs and cats to
8 temporary or permanent homes in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

9 “Department” – Department of Agricultural Resources

10 SECTION 2: The Department may promulgate rules and regulations for the operation of shelter
11 and rescue organizations operating or conducting business in the Commonwealth of
12 Massachusetts regarding the transfer of ownership of domestic animals, including but not
13 limited to their importation, transportation, housing and medical treatment.